

Amendments to and listing of the Claims:

Please amend the claims as follows. This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1. (Currently Amended) Neutral electrode for HF surgery, comprising at least one electrically conductive section (2), ~~which can be brought into~~adapted to contact with a ~~section~~portion of a patient's body, ~~characterized in that the neutral electrode (1) comprises and comprising a circulation-promoting means that adapted to enhance blood flow at least through the said body section that is portion in contact with the said section (2).~~
2. (Currently Amended) Neutral electrode according to Claim 1, ~~characterized in that the at least one wherein said section (2) is coated with a conductive gel to improve the contact between the at least one said section (2) and the section said portion of the patient's body.~~
3. (Currently Amended) Neutral electrode according to Claim ~~1 or 2~~, ~~characterized in that the~~1, wherein said circulation-promoting means ~~comprise~~comprises a substance (4) ~~that contains a circulation-promoting agent.~~
4. (Currently Amended) Neutral electrode ~~according to one of the preceding claims, in particular according to Claim 3, characterized in that the at least one wherein said section (2) is coated with the said substance (4) that contains the said circulation-promoting agent.~~
5. (Currently Amended) Neutral electrode according to ~~one of the preceding claims, in particular according to Claim 3 or 4, characterized in that the~~2 wherein said gel incorporates ~~the~~a substance (4) that contains ~~the~~a circulation-promoting agent.
6. (Currently Amended) Neutral electrode according to ~~one of the preceding claims, in particular according to Claim 3 to 5, characterized in that~~Claim 1, wherein a carrier material (3) ~~for holding the~~adapted to hold said conductive section incorporates ~~the~~a substance (4) that contains ~~the~~a circulation-promoting agent.

7. (Currently Amended) Neutral electrode according to ~~one of the preceding~~
~~claims, characterized in that the~~Claim 1, wherein said circulation-promoting means
comprise elements ~~(2, 2')~~ that supply a stimulus current.

8. (Currently Amended) Neutral electrode according to ~~one of the preceding claims,~~
~~in particular according to Claim 7, characterized in that the~~Claim 7,
comprising a plurality of said electrically conductive sections and wherein said elements that
supply thesaid stimulus current are disposed in such a way that thesaid stimulus current flows
between at least two of said sections ~~(2, 2')~~ within the neutral electrode ~~(1)~~.

9. (Currently Amended) Neutral electrode according to ~~one of the preceding claims,~~
~~in particular according to one of the claims 7 or 8, characterized in~~
~~that the~~Claims 7, wherein said elements that supply the stimulus current comprise separate
electrical connector devices ~~(6)~~ for connection to a current source.

10. (Currently Amended) Neutral electrode according to ~~one of the preceding claims,~~
~~characterized in that the~~Claim 1, wherein said circulation-promoting means
~~comprise~~comprises warmable elements ~~(8)~~.

11. (Currently Amended) Neutral electrode according to Claim 1, wherein said

~~11. Neutral electrode according to one of the preceding claims,~~
~~characterized in that the circulation-promoting means~~ ~~comprise~~comprises elements
~~(9)~~ that can be heated by supplying a direct supply of energy directly thereto.

12. (Currently Amended) Conductive gel for use in the application of a neutral electrode to a
~~section~~portion of a patient's body, containing at least one of capsaicin ~~or~~ and a similar means
~~for promoting~~ agent that promotes blood circulation.